

Claims

1. A sling for assisting a first person and a second person to carry a load, the sling comprising:

5 two pliable elongate members; and

a plurality of at least five handles interconnecting the two pliable elongate members and being interposed therebetween, wherein the plurality of at least five handles are permanently affixed to the two pliable elongate members at a nonadjustable position relative thereto, wherein the plurality of at least five handles are stiffer than the two pliable
10 elongate members and lie substantially perpendicular thereto, whereby the first person and the second person can each choose from more than one handle of the plurality of at least five handles such that the sling can cradle the load between the first person and the second person.

15 2. The sling of claim 1, wherein the two pliable elongate members comprise two fabric straps.

20 3. The sling of claim 1, wherein each handle of the plurality of at least five handles defines two slits through which the two pliable elongate members extend.

25 4. The sling of claim 1, further comprising two end caps attached to opposite ends of each handle of the plurality of at least five handles.

5. The sling of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of fasteners that penetrate the two pliable elongate members and the plurality of at least five handles.

6. A method for a first person and a second person to carry a load, wherein the method involves the use of a sling that comprises two pliable elongate members joined by a series of handles that are interposed therebetween, wherein the series of handles include
5 a first plurality of handles and a second plurality of handles, and the series of handles are stiffer than the two pliable, elongate members, the method comprising:

extending the sling underneath the load such that the load is interposed between the first plurality of handles and the second plurality of handles;

selecting a first handle from the first plurality of handles;

10 gripping the first handle via the first person;

selecting a second handle from the second plurality of handles;

gripping the second handle via the second person such that the load is interposed between the first person and the second person; and

15 manually lifting the load via the first person and the second person lifting the first handle and the second handle respectively, whereby the load is held cradled upon the sling between the first person and the second person.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the first person and the second person both face in
20 a forward direction.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the load is farther forward than the second person and the first person is farther forward than the load as the load is being carried via the
25 sling.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein the first person and the second person each have a first human arm and a second human arm, and the first person and the second person each

use their first arm for lifting the load so that their second human arm is free for an other purpose.

- 5 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the other purpose involves opening a door.
11. The method of claim 9, wherein the other purpose involves steadying the load.
- 10 12. The method of claim 6, wherein the two pliable elongate members comprise two fabric straps.
- 15 13. The method of claim 6, wherein each handle of the series of handles lies substantially perpendicular to the two pliable elongate members.
- 20 14. The method of claim 6, wherein each handle of the series of handles defines two slits through which the two pliable elongate members extend.
- 25 15. The method of claim 6, further comprising positioning at least one handle of the series of handles underneath the load.
- 30 16. The method of claim 6, further comprising tipping the load so that the sling can be positioned underneath the load.

17. A method for a first person and a second person to carry a load, wherein the method involves the use of a sling that comprises two pliable elongate members joined by a series of handles that are interposed therebetween, wherein the series of handles include a first plurality of handles and a second plurality of handles, and the series of handles are
5 stiffer than the two pliable, elongate members, the method comprising:

extending the sling underneath the load such that the load is interposed between the first plurality of handles and the second plurality of handles, wherein the two pliable elongate members comprise two fabric straps;

positioning at least one handle of the series of handles underneath the load;

10 selecting a first handle from the first plurality of handles, wherein the first plurality of handles are above a lower surface of the load;

gripping the first handle via the first person;

selecting a second handle from the second plurality of handles, wherein the second plurality of handles are above the lower surface of the load;

15 gripping the second handle via the second person such that the load is interposed between the first person and the second person; and

manually lifting the load via the first person and the second person lifting the first handle and the second handle respectively, whereby the load is held cradled upon the sling between the first person and the second person.

20 18. The method of claim 17, wherein each handle of the series of handles lies substantially perpendicular to the two fabric straps.

25 19. The method of claim 17, wherein each handle of the series of handles defines two slits through which the two fabric straps extend.

20. The method of claim 17, further comprising using the series of handles for maintaining the two fabric straps in a spaced apart relationship.